

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/044,279

Examiner

William P. Fletcher III

Applicant(s)

LEONARD, WILLIAM K.

Art Unit

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment and response filed 6/21/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

WPF 9/2/2004
William Phillip Fletcher III
Patent Examiner, USPTO
Group Art Unit 1762

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David R. Cleveland (Reg. No. 29,524) on 9/2/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for improving the uniformity of a wet coating on a substrate having a direction of motion comprising:

A1) applying to the substrate a wet coating;

A2) contacting the applied coating at a first position with wetted surface portions of at least two rotating wire-wound pick-and-place rods; and

A3) re-contacting the coating with such wetted surface portions at positions on the substrate that are different from the first position and not periodically related to one another with respect to their distance from the first position; or

~~B1) applying to the substrate a discontinuous or deliberately uneven wet coating whose caliper spatially varies in the direction of motion and~~

~~B2) contacting and re-contacting the applied coating with wetted surface portions of at least two rotating wire-wound pick-and-place rods;~~

whereby the coating caliper uniformity is improved in the direction of motion.

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9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 comprising applying to the substrate a discontinuous wet coating whose caliper spatially varies in the direction of motion ~~an wherein the rods have the same period of contact with the substrate.~~

20. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 comprising applying to the substrate a discontinuous or deliberately uneven wet coating whose caliper spatially varies in the direction of motion.

Claims 29-58 cancelled.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art neither teaches nor suggest applicant's claimed method in which the wire-wound rods re-contact the coating with wetted surface portions at positions on the substrate that are different from the first position and not periodically related to one another with respect to their⁴ distance from the first positions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Terminal Disclaimer

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on 9/1/2004, disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US 6,737,113 B2, has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

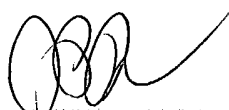
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Fletcher III whose telephone number is (571) 272-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive P. Beck can be reached on (571) 272-1415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WPF 9/2/2004
William P. Fletcher III
Examiner
Art Unit 1762


SHRIVE P. BECK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700